

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20-24 and 26-28 are pending in the application.

Claims 13-18, 20-24, 27 and 28 have been allowed.

Claim 1 has been rejected as purportedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 2-12 and 26 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 2, 7, 10, 22 and 28 have been amended.

Applicants express their appreciation for the indication of Claims 13-18, 20-24, 27 and 28 being allowed. Applicants further express their appreciation for the indication that Claims 2-12 and 26 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.


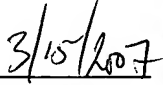
Although Applicants do not concede that independent Claim 1 is not allowable as written, in order to further prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claim 1 and have incorporated the limitations of Claim 1 into Claims 2 and 7, per the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have also amended allowed Claim 28 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1 because Claim 28 was dependent upon Claim 1 and required incorporation of the limitations of Claim 1 in light of the cancellation of Claim 1. Applicants reserve the right to pursue a claim of the form of independent Claim 1 in the future, for example, in a continuing application.

In light of the cancellation of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of that claim in the Final Office Action is now moot.

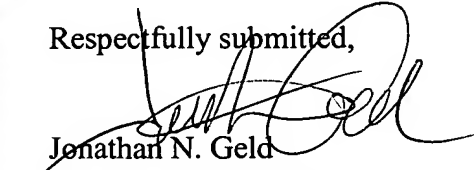
Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of these amendments, and the statements in the Final Office Action regarding allowable subject matter and allowed claims, Claims 2-18, 20-24 and 26-28 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's withdrawal of the objections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 15, 2007.	
	
Attorney for Applicant(s)	Date of Signature

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